

Science Toolkit: Grade 4 Objective 3.C.1.b

Student Handout: Science: Grade 4 Objective 3.C.1.b

Standard 3.0 Life Science

Topic C. Genetics

Indicator 1. Explain that in order for offspring to resemble their parents, there must be a reliable way to transfer information from one generation to the next.

Objective b. Explain that some likenesses between parents and offspring are inherited (such as eye color in humans, nest building in birds, or flower color in plants) and other likenesses are learned (such as language in humans)

Selected Response (SR) Item

Question

Use the information below to answer the following:

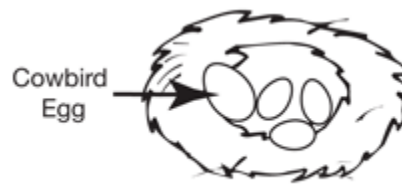
Brown-headed cowbirds are small birds found throughout North American grasslands and along edges of forests. For food, the brown-headed cowbirds rely on grazing animals to uncover insects and seeds.

When a female brown-headed cowbird sees eggs in the nest of another bird, she lays her own egg in the nest. She usually chooses nests with eggs that are smaller than hers. The other bird species then raises the brown-headed cowbird hatchling. The brown-headed cowbird hatchling grows quickly and is larger than the other hatchlings in the nest.

The brown-headed cowbird often lays eggs in the nest of the yellow warbler. The yellow warbler lives near forests, builds nests in trees and thick brush, and eats insects and fruit.



Female Brown-headed Cowbird



Yellow Warbler Nest

Why is the appearance of the brown-headed cowbird hatchling different from the other hatchlings in the nest?

- A. Physical likenesses are learned.
- B. Physical features are not inherited in birds.
- C. The brown-headed cowbird hatched before the other hatchlings.
- D. The brown-headed cowbird is not related to the mother of the other hatchlings.

Correct Answer

- D. The brown-headed cowbird is not related to the mother of the other hatchlings.

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